

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01544 021830Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1544

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH) ZA
SUBJ: KAUNDA VISIT: RELIGIOUS ASPECTS

1. DURING BILL MOYERS' LONG COVERSATION WITH KAUNDA HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE INTENSITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. IN MOYERS' VIEW THIS SPRINGS CHIEFLY FROM KAUNDA'S FEELING OF A COMMON RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND AND CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO WORLD PROBLEMS. KNOWING THAT MOYERS HIMSELF WAS AN ORDAINED MINISTER KAUNDA ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD TAKE HIM TO CHURCH. I POINTED OUT TO MOYERS THAT THE WASHINGTON VISIT WAS ON A WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. HE WONDERED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING BILLY GRAHAM TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A PRIVATE PRAYER MEETING AMONG THE THREE.

2. I PASS THESE SUGGESTIONS ON TO DEMONSTRATE THE QUALITY OF KAUNDA'S FEELING ABOUT THE VISIT, AND ALSO FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH IN PLANNING THE TIME. I BELIEVE MOYERS WAS TRYING TO BE AS HELPFUL AS HE COULD BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO BE KNOWN TO HAVE INTERVENED IN THE MATTER.

3. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA ALWAYS BEGINS A DINNER AT STATE HOUSE BY CALLING ON ONE OR ANOTHER OF HIS STAFF TO SAY GRACE.

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LOW

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